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FRESNO MAN SENTENCED TO 135-MONTH PRISON TERM FOR DISPENSING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE WITH INTENT TO COMMIT A CRIME OF VIOLENCE

FRESNO-United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that the Honorable Anthony W. Ishii, U.S. District Judge in Fresno, California sentenced STEVEN REGIER, 43, of Fresno, California to a term of imprisonment of 135 months as a result of his conviction for three counts of distributing and dispensing a controlled substance (Temazepam) with the intent to commit crimes of violence. The court also imposed a term of supervised release of 36 months and a penalty assessment of \$300. The court recommended that the defendant serve part of his sentence at the Bureau of Prisons correctional facility in Butner, North Carolina and participate in a sex offender treatment program there. Upon release from prison, he will be required to participate in a sex offender treatment and therapy program, register as a sex offender, and not have any contact with persons under age 18 without prior approval of a federal probation officer. Judge Ishii, in sentencing REGIER commented that the defendant committed crimes that were, "heinous, degrading, and sophisticated in nature," and that the defendant posed a "serious risk and danger to the community." REGIER has been detained since his arrest on September 29, 2004.

The case was investigated by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office in Fresno, California and the Fresno County Sheriff's Department, Computer Crimes Unit.

REGIER admitted in a plea agreement that between August 2002 and October 2004, he knowingly secreted the controlled substance Temazapan (a prescription sleep aid) into the food or drink of three minor victims with the intent to commit crimes of violence upon them. He admitted that with one victim he engaged in non-consensual oral copulation, sexual battery, and forcible acts of sexual penetration. REGIER admitted that with two other victims he engaged in non-consensual touching of the genitalia or buttocks of his victims with the intent to abuse, humiliate, degrade, or gratify the sexual desires of a person. His sentence was enhanced, in part, because the minor victims were in the defendant's care and custody.